

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5021

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, NL, GE

SUBJECT: DUTCH REPORT ON RESUMED TALKS WITH GDR

REF: HAGUE 4355

1. DUTCH FOREIGN AND FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIALS JOINTLY BRIEFED REPRESENTATIVES FROM EMBASSIES OF INTERESTED WESTERN NATIONS ON RESULTS OF SECOND ROUND OF NETHERLANDS-GDR TALKS ON OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL AND PROPERTY CLAIMS. TALKS COVERED NATIONALIZATION CLAIMS, RESTITUTION OF STOLEN CULTURAL PROPERTY AND CLAIMS OF NAZI VICTIMS. DUTCH WERE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON FIRST TWO ITEMS, BUT RECEIVED STANDARD GDR REPLIES ON FINAL SUBJECT.

2. NATIONALIZAION CLAIMS: DUTCH HAD FILED ABOUT 50 CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZATION OF REAL PROPERTY FOR INDIVIDUALS AND 4 CLAIMS FOR COMPANIES GDR REPS HAD DONE EXTENSIVE HOMEWORK IN TRACING CLAIMS
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TO ASCERTAIN PRESENT STATUS. MOST WERE ACCEPTED

FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION. ONE STUMBLING BLOCK WAS COMPANY CLAIM THROUGH WEST GERMAN FIRM. THIS PROBLEM OF GREAT INTEREST TO DUTCH SINCE DUTCH MULTINATIONALS HAD EXTENSIVE PROPERTIES IN PRESENT GDR TERRITORY CONTROLLED THROUGH COMPANY HEADQUARTERS IN PRESENT FRG. MOST BANK CLAIMS WERE FOUND TO HAVE BEEN PUT INTO EAST D-MARKS AT 10-1 AND TRANSFERRED TO BERLIN BANKS FOR ADMINISTRATION. GDR REQUIRING CLAIMANTS TO PROVE FUNDS NOT ACQUIRED THROUGH NAZI ACTIVITY WHEREVER SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS INVOLVED. CLAIMS FOR SECURITIES CENTERED ON DOLLAR-BONDS OF LEIPZIG AND DRESDEN. GDR DISCLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY SINCE THESE CITIES BANKRUPT AT END OF WAR. DUTCH INTEND TO LEAVE THESE CLAIMS TO BONDHOLDERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

3. RESTITUTION OF CULTURAL GOODS: SINCE MOST DUTCH ART REMOVED BY GERMANS WAS THOUGHT TO BE IN DRESDEN, DUTCH HAD LITTLE HOPE FOR RECOVERY. GDR OFFERED, TO DUTCH SURPRISE, AN EXTENSIVE LIST OF DUTCH ART IDENTIFIED BY ORIGIN. AS THE DUTCH EXPECTED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES' EXPERIENCES, GDR OFFERED TO RETURN THESE WORKS IN FRAMEWORK OF A CULTURAL AGREEMENT. GDR DID NOT HAVE PROPOSED DRAFT FOR AGREEMENT, BUT PROPOSED MEETING IN JANUARY TO DISCUSS MATTER. DUTCH ARE NOW TRACING OWNERS OR THEIR DESCENDANTS FOR ARTWORKS IDENTIFIED AND ARE PREPARED TO USE A PRESS CAMPAIGN TO FORCE GDR TO RETURN ITEMS WITHOUT CULTURAL AGREEMENT.

4. CLAIMS OF NAZI VICTIMS: GDR TOOK EXPECTED ATTITUDE ON CLAIMS OF JEWISH NAZI VICTIMS, SAYING THIS WAS MATTER COVERED BY REPARATIONS AND GDR HAD PAID REPARATIONS TO USSR AS FRG HAD PAID TO OTHERS. ISSUE WOULD HAVE TO BE SETTLED IN CONTEXT OF PEACE TREATY. DUTCH ARGUED THAT CLAIMS WERE MORAL CLAIMS AGAINST THE GERMAN PEOPLE AND UNRELATED TO WAR REPARATIONS. ON CLAIMS FOR MOVEABLE PROPERTY OF JEWS STOLEN BY NAZIS, GDR CLAIMED PAYMENT HAD BEEN MADE BY FRG AS SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT TO NAZIS. DUTCH POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAD DOCUMENTATION TO APPORTION CLAIMS

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AMONG FRG, GDR, AND AUSTRIA AND HAD NEGOTIATED WITH OTHERS ON THIS BASIS.

5. DUTCH EXPECT TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WHEN SUFFICIENT NEW CLAIMS HAVE BEEN DOCUMENTED AND SUBMITTED TO GDR. DUTCH HAVE TOTAL OF ABOUT 400 NATIONALIZED PROPERTY CLAIMS.
GOULD

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